

CLAIMS

1. A developer container comprising:

a cylindrical container main body for containing a developer for use in image formation, the developer container being detachably mounted on an image forming apparatus, the container main body being rotated about an axis thereof by driving means provided in the image forming apparatus to supply the developer to the image forming apparatus,

the container main body having:

a discharge hole on its substantially middle portion in an axial direction, for discharging the developer, and

conveying means in an inner circumferential portion of the container main body, for conveying the developer in the axial direction when the container main body is rotated about the axis, the conveying means having a plurality of conveying portions extending in an extending direction from one end portion to the other end portion in the axial direction as it is directed to a downstream side in a rotation direction,

the conveying portions being formed at intervals in a circumferential direction thereof and the axial direction, of which adjacent two conveying portions in the axial direction being arranged in such a manner that

an end portion on a downstream side in the rotation direction of one conveying portion and an end portion on an upstream side in the rotation direction of the other conveying portion adjoin each other in the axial direction.

2. The developer container of claim 1, wherein the container main body is provided with a discharge hole for discharging the developer, and

the conveying means conveys the developer in the axial direction of the container main body toward the discharge hole while oscillating the developer by rotating the container main body.

3. The developer container of claim 1 or 2, wherein the conveying portions are formed so as to meander in a substantially S-shape.

4. The developer container of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the container main body is provided with a discharge hole for discharging the developer, and the conveying portions are formed so that the conveying amount of the developer by a conveying portion formed in a close portion to the discharge hole becomes larger than the conveying amount of the developer by a conveying

portion formed in a distant portion from the discharge hole.

5. The developer container of claim 4, wherein the conveying portions are formed so that the conveying portions formed in a close portion to the discharge hole proceed in the axial direction in the longer distance as proceeding in the circumferential direction in comparison with the conveying portion formed in the distant portion from the discharge hole.

6. The developer container of claim 4, wherein the conveying portions are formed so that the conveying portion formed in the close portion to the discharge hole have a larger size in an extending direction in comparison with the conveying portion formed in the distant portion from the discharge hole.

7. The developer container of claim 4, wherein the conveying portions are formed so as to protrude inward in a radial direction, and the conveying portion formed in the close portion to the discharge hole is formed so as to have a larger protruding amount inward in the radial direction in comparison with the conveying portion formed in the distant portion from the discharge hole.

8. An image forming apparatus in which the developer container of any one of claims 1 to 7 is detachably mounted.